

Going back right to the start with the consultations National Grid put on.

I have yet to see how this could be called consultations as there was no other routes for us to discuss regarding the proposed pylon route.

There seem to be no intention on National Grids side to engaging in any proper talks on the merits of underground or offshore.

At the consultation we were told by National Grids representatives that pylon design would be up for discussion. This did not happen, it's tall lattice pylons and no discussion.

Besides National Grid being able to tick the box to say they had put on consultations in their eyes, communities and individuals like me feel totally let down.

The Holford rules we know are just a guideline and because of the geography of Suffolk, Norfolk and Essex they do not really come into play. There are no landscape features big enough to hide these pylons as they cross up and down over the ridge lines and valleys of this area. This is one of the reasons putting them underground should have been taken seriously.

In the area I live, one of the Holford rules should definitely have been considered is wirescape. The proposed new pylon line runs close to a second pylon line, I have brought this up before. For my neighbours they will see the sunrise and sunset through pylons and these wires.

Coming now to my business farming.

I am looking now at a massive company going for planning permission on and over my land, this they want to happen very soon.

The problem I have is that I have yet to have had any meaningful engagement with National Grid or their representatives.

For example, the haul road NG needs to lay for building the pylons.

I had what I thought was useful talks in moving this. For me this made a difference of losing 25% of my farm land compared to 35% of my land.

I have been told as its now gone for planning, the haul road can no longer be changed.

This is just one case where National Grid have not done the necessary work before going to planning.

Compensation discussions on crop loss, soil damage, interference to my business, loss of asset value, time scales (how many years) time scale for payments and so much more. I have yet to have a discussion with National Grid or their representatives on any of this.

I have not seen any heads of Terms to cover the works involved to build these pylons over my land.

From what my agent is saying, the rights sought by National Grid appear excessive and disproportionate.

I am still waiting on technical information and operational restrictions, which will have some effect on my business in the future.

It has been mentioned that Compensation rates for pylons has not increased for 15 years, this cannot be right. I also been told that all pylons will receive the same compensation rate regardless how big a footprint they have (corner pylons have a far greater footprint, I have one these)

Farming is already very difficult, to have upto a third of my land out of production with no idea on compensation, timescales, payment dates, possible over bearing rights.

Then after the building work and haul road has been removed my soil and business could be damaged for years. I do not know where I stand on this.

Surely National Grid must need to have had these points sorted before going to planning.

You will have to forgive me, my confidence in the planning system being any more than a tick box exercise is not high after being involved with National Grid and their representatives.

One more thing that's National Grids community payments, I know what I believe these to be.

If they are really wanting to help communities they should put every penny into doing a good job not a bad one.

I am a farmer and I am for putting underground. It allows the natural world to recover rather than being scared for ever.

Also house prices and business will bounce back. Communities will in time get back most of what they have lost if not all. It's a win win.

Under EN-5 1.7.7 putting cables underground may have a more significant construction footprint than overhead.

This I do not believe to be true, the damage in building pylons especially around the bases could be considerable. Putting an 8 meter haul road down is going to have a big effect and if the weather turns wet the damage will last for years. The haul road damage legacy needs to be looked at much more closely as for the permanent loss of land for every pylon bases.

One of the parts National Grid mention about putting community funding to is physical health and wellbeing.

I have brought up mental health more than once. For National Grid to not mention it, in it's name greatly concerns me. I hope whoever reads this will take it on board